

*Avium*, vol. 1, p.458, 1850.'"; but Sharpe (1890) pointed out that Bonaparte never used this name for a genus, and that although it was subsequently treated as a generic name by other authors it had never been described. Bonaparte only used the term "Granatinae" for a species group within his genus *Estrela*. Sharpe (1890) gives a diagnostic description of the genus in his key to the genera (*loc. cit.* p. 203) and the correct citation would appear to be: *Granatina*, Sharpe, *Cat. B. M.* xiii, p. 403, 1890, type by tautonomy *Granatina granatina*.

In these circumstances *Uraeginthus*, Cabanis, 1851, has priority, and if the two genera are to be combined this is the correct generic name.

#### References:

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## An addition to our knowledge of *Euplectes diademata*

by JOHN G. WILLIAMS

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The Fire-fronted Bishop, *Euplectes diademata* Fischer & Reichenow, is an uncommon local species with a restricted distribution in the eastern districts of southern Somalia and Kenya, and in north-eastern Tanganyika. During seventeen years ornithological work in East Africa I have encountered the species only twice, near Kilifi on the Kenya coast and near Isiolo, Northern Frontier Province, Kenya.

Following the exceptionally heavy rains in Kenya during late 1961 numerous Fire-fronted Bishops appeared in the Tsavo Royal National Park (East). The species was previously unknown in the Park. The habitat selected was areas of lush grass with scattered small bushes and herbage. Nesting colonies of eight and twelve nests were discovered on the 18th and 25th January, 1962 by Mr. David Sheldrick, Warden of the Tsavo Royal National Park and his assistant Mr. Charles Moore. One colony was at mile 8 on the Voi-Lugard's Falls road and the other at the base of Irima Hill. Some nests contained young, others fresh or incubated eggs, and some nests were recently constructed and were without eggs. Specimens of the birds, nests and eggs were collected.

*Weights of specimens.* Five adult males weighed 14, 13.5, 15, 13.5 and 15 grammes: one adult female 13.5 grammes: one juvenile male 14 grammes and one juvenile female 14 grammes.

*Food.* The stomach contents of all specimens examined consisted entirely of grass seeds—probably *Sporobolus* sp. (det. Miss D. Napper).

*Breeding habits.* Nests were built between 18 and 30 inches above the ground, attached to grass stems or to twigs of small shrubs growing in clumps of grass. All nests examined, over twenty, had the entrance holes facing due north. Nests were usually very frail structures, oval in shape with a large top side entrance. Only one nest examined was more solidly constructed, being thickly lined with fine grass. The typical nest was woven of grass blades and grass stems with a little softer grass as lining: it measured  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches with a broad top-side entrance  $2 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Some nests were so loosely woven that the eggs could be seen through the side of the nest. Full clutches of eggs varied from two to four. The eggs were rounded ovals with some gloss: pale bluish-green (*pale sulphate green*, Ridgway) more or less heavily speckled and spotted with mauve, dark olive green and black. Measurements of ten eggs: 16—17.9 x 12.2—13.4 mm.

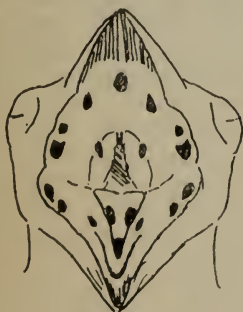
*Acknowledgements.* I am grateful to Colonel M. Cowie, Director of the Royal National Parks of Kenya, for his most helpful co-operation in all matters relating to the avifauna of Kenya's National Parks, and to Wardens David Sheldrick and Charles Moore for collecting specimens and data.

### The mouth-markings of the nestlings of *Amandava subflava* (Vieill.)

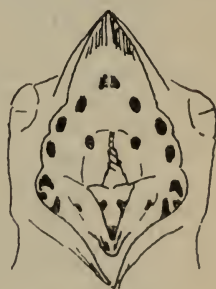
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The nestlings of the Estrildidae possess distinctive patterns of black spots or lines on the inside of the mouth, which vary from one species to another. These patterns have been used as taxonomic characters by Delacour (1943), and to a greater extent by Steiner (1960) who published diagrams of the markings of thirty species. These markings would appear to be highly variable and probably only of taxonomic value as additional characters in certain species. I was recently able, through the kindness of A. Hayes, able to examine the mouth-markings of a brood of young of *Amandava subflava* which had died in the nest at 7–8 day old. Delacour states that the markings of this species have been recorded, but he does not



*A. subflava*



*A. amandava*

comment on them when discussing taxonomic relationships. Steiner describes the markings of his tribe Amandavae but his description appears to be based only on *A. amandava*.

In the accompanying sketches I have compared the mouth-pattern of *A. subflava* with that of *A. amandava* as shown by Steiner. The two drawings are not of course to scale. The resemblance between the two patterns is very close indeed and, in view of the variation of such markings from one species to another, could be considered to indicate a close relationship. They differ in that the uppermost spot of *A. subflava* is single and not double, and there are only two markings on the lower edge of the gape. I find that there is also a small black mark in the middle of the underside of the tongue.